

REMARKS

Claims 5, 6, 11, 19, 20 and 22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 12-18 and 21 are canceled. Thus, no new matter is added by this Amendment.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments merely cancel claims; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection.

Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 5, 6, 11, 19-20 and 22 are allowed.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 12 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0177243 (Matsuura) in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,198,218 (Kobashi). This rejection is moot.

III. Withdrawn Claims

Withdrawn claims 1, 2 and 13-18 are herein canceled. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications to pursue the subject matter of these claims.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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